

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF OF THE MT BREEZE!

*Santa visits Montgomery,
see schedule inside.*

**MONTGOMERY
MT**

Breeze

December 2018

Printed 11/27/18 Circulation 375

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

A friendly reminder from your Town Fire Dept.



154 Main Road
Montgomery, MA

Office: (413) 862-4505
Fax: (413) 862-4505
wsservice@nutmegtrucks.com

Please help us help you quicker in any time of need by making your house number visible from the street.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MONTGOMERY
FIRE DEPARTMENT!**

Election night turnout results

The State Primary that was held on Tuesday November 6, 2018 had an overwhelming turnout. The highest turnout Montgomery has ever had for a primary. Out of 596 registered voters 456 voted either by absentee ballot, early voting ballot or on the day of the primary.

Results of the votes cast are posted on the inside door of the town hall if you would like to see who and what Montgomery residents voted for.

Also we had the Marijuana question ballot and 437 voters voted. Votes in favor of the new bylaw were 279. Against the bylaw were 157.

Town Clerk, Judy Murphy

**“Love the giver more
than the gift.”**

Brigham Young



Unattended holiday flammables such as your Christmas tree can flame up in a matter of minutes. Make sure your tree is well watered and free from heating appliances.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWS

The Board voted that the following **PRIVATE ROADS WILL BE PLOWED** during the 2019 Winter season (November, 2018 thru April, 2019):

- Avery Road
- Portion of Jourdan Road from the old discontinued Southampton Road to the end
- Portion of North Road from 44 North Road to the end
- Mountain Acres Road

The following roads will **NOT** be plowed this winter season:

- Dirt section of Russell Rd to 4 Lower Russell Rd
- Herrick Road from 71 Herrick Road to Carrington Road
- Fuller Road from 56 Fuller Road to 11 Fuller Road

REMINDER:

NO PARKING ON ANY WAY (PUBLIC OR PRIVATE) DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER THRU APRIL so that the road can be properly plowed and/or treated for icy conditions.

Important numbers

FIRE EMERGENCY 911
AMBULANCE 911
STATE POLICE 911
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 862-4037

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL 685-1102
GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL 685-1202
GMS ATTENDANCE 685-1201
LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY 685-1301

TOWN HALL OFFICE 862-3386
townhall@montgomeryma.gov
Administrative Secretary Hours, Tuesdays
& Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FIRE DEPT: 862-4505
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF - CHRIS GALIPEAU
862-4599

TOWN CLERK - JUDY MURPHY 862-4478
POLICE DEPT:
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF -
PAULA CHAPMAN 862-4949
TAX COLLECTOR - JANE THIELEN 862-3386

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER -
PHIL CAMP 862-4976

SELECT BOARD:
DAN JACQUES 862-9001
MIKE MORRISSEY 862-3386
JACOB CHAPMAN 862-4949
Meetings for the Select Board are held at
7:00 p.m. every other Thursday.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:
MADELYN AUSTIN 862-4004
mrrrr@verizon.net

LIBRARY:
LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG 862-3894
montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com
HOURS: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Thursday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:
Meetings of the Board of Assessors are held
on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month
from 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Please call 862-3386
for an appointment. Assessors' Clerk
hours 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month
from Noon - 4 p.m.

State Senator Don Humason:
64 Noble St., Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 568-1366
Donald.Humason@masenate.gov

State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa:
info@lindsaysabadosa.com
(413) 539-8599

December Calendar

Dec. 5 9:30 am – Gateway Brunch and Concert
Dec. 5 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 6 7:30 pm – GRSD School Committee Meeting – GRSD
Middle School Rm 112/114
Dec. 7 9:30 –11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 11 Recycling day
Dec. 12 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 12 7:30 pm – GRSD School Committee Meeting – GRSD
Middle School Rm 112/114
Dec. 13 7:00 pm – Selectboard Meeting – Town Hall
Dec. 14 9:30 –11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 14 Noon – COA Christmas Brunch – Town Hall
Dec. 19 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 21 9:30 –11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 25 Christmas Day
Dec. 26 Recycling day
Dec. 26 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 27 7:00 pm – Selectboard Meeting – Town Hall
Dec. 28 9:30 –11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Paula L. Chapman

Administrative Chief of Police for the Town of Montgomery
OFFICE HOURS: 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm

December 13, 2018

December 27, 2018

MOUNTAIN BREEZE AD POLICY

Montgomery resident ads: \$3.50 for ¼ page, \$7.00 for ½ page, \$10.50 for ¾ page and \$14.00 for a full page.

Non-resident ads: \$5.00 for ¼ page, \$10.00 for ½ page, \$15.00 for ¾ page and \$20.00 for a full page.

Political ads: \$15.00 for ½ page and \$30.00 for a full page. (Political ads must include the name of the payer.)

Ads: email (preferably pdf file) to montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com, put in the MB box at the Library, or mail to: **Montgomery Mountain Breeze, c/o Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085-9525.** Include your name and phone number. Payment must be received by deadline date (usually on the 16th of the month) or ad will not be run. No cash, please; make check payable to Montgomery Mountain Breeze and put in the MB box at the Library, or mail to above address.

MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818
Helen Allyn * Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig *
Paula Long * Julie Pike * Jane Thielen
montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

The Grille is *the place* to meet your neighbors!

Montgomery...Scott is leaving.



Not to worry folks. He's just going home for Christmas. The Grille will be closed Wednesday, December 26; Thursday, December 27; and Friday December 28. He'll be back and open for the weekend.

So mark your calendars and stay hungry!



ALSO in the works: We will be again collecting food for the Huntington Food Pantry and clothes for the "Dress for Success" program. Let's show our holiday spirit by helping those in need.

★★★★★ **NO taxation without representation!!!** ★★★★★★

The new Montgomery flat tax has been built into the price of our fresh, hot coffee and breakfast sandwiches.

HOT COFFEE
Still \$1 dollar!

BREAKFAST SANDWICH
Still three bucks, out the door!

Montgomery Grille

AT THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE

Hours:
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
5:30 am to 2:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday:
6:00 am to 2:30 pm
Lunch starts 11:00 am

46 Main Rd, Montgomery, MA • 862-(FOOD) 3663 Closed Mondays & Tuesdays



SANTA CLAUS

IS COMING TO TOWN!!!!



SATURDAY - DECEMBER 15, 2018
(TIME SCHEDULE - TIMES ARE APPROX.)

SNOW DATE FOR SANTA RUN: SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2018

THE MONTGOMERY FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION WILL ONCE AGAIN BRING SANTA TO THESE LOCATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

11:00 a.m. Main Rd. at Fuller Rd.
11:05 a.m. Main Rd. at Old Main Rd.
11:10 a.m. Professional Center - 46 Main Road
11:25 a.m. Main Rd. at North Rd.
11:35 a.m. Pitcher St. at Pitcher St. Cemetery
11:40 a.m. Pitcher St. at Mountain House Rd.
11:45 a.m. Pitcher St. at the end
12:00 p.m. Pine Ridge Rd. at Birch Bluff Rd.
12:15 p.m. Russell Rd. at Old House Rd.
12:35 p.m. Russell Rd. at Tekoa Rd.
12:40 p.m. Russell Rd. at Pomeroy Rd.
12:45 p.m. At the FIRE STATION
1:00 p.m. Main Rd. at New State Rd.
1:10 p.m. Avery Rd. at Sunset Rd.
1:25 p.m. New State Rd. at Jourdan Rd.
1:40 p.m. Carrington Rd. at Main Rd.
2:00 p.m. Carrington Rd. at Thomas Rd.
2:30 p.m. Carrington Rd. at Russell Rd.
2:40 p.m. Back at the FIRE STATION



**SANTA WILL ARRIVE IN MONTGOMERY'S RESCUE TRUCK
AND HAND OUT TREATS TO THE KIDS!!!!**

Comcast build delayed

In a letter dated October 24, 2018, Comcast informed the Town that it will not be able to complete the build in Montgomery by December 31, 2018. The delay is the result of pole licensing and make-ready work required of Eversource and Verizon before Comcast's construction efforts can commence. Comcast reports that Eversource and Verizon are committed to completing their work in Peru, MA before moving on to Montgomery, but will continue to do any and all work that does not require a license. Further information and updates will be posted in future editions of the 'Breeze.

Condolences

To Donald & Cheryl Masciadrelli on the loss of Don's father Donald L Masciadrelli Sr. on November 4 in Westfield.

To Jo and Bonnie Densmore on the loss of Jo's father Lester Densmore on October 31 in Springfield.

To Patty and Rich Little on the loss of Patty's mother, Terry Donnelly, November 23 in Holyoke.

The most famous and influential toys in the world

These are the toys that changed and influenced our childhood.

Cabbage Patch Kids

Originally known as Little People, these dolls were created by Xavier Roberts in 1978. The dolls came with adoption papers and birth certificates, encouraging the idea of adoption.

GI Joe

Hasbro created the action figures in 1964, targeting young boys. Four figures were initially launched to represent the army, the navy, the air

force and the marines, and within two years, the toy was bringing in more than half of the company's profits.

Rubik's Cube

According to the National Toy Hall of Fame, the 3-D cube is the most popular puzzle in history. Rubik's Cube retail sales figures were \$250 million in 2017.

LEGO

It has spawned action figures, TV shows, a fan conference and a hit film. Since its debut in 1958, LEGO has

redefined the potential of playthings, allowing kids to build permanent structures from scratch, in all kinds of shapes and sizes.

Barbie

Launched in 1959, this fashion doll transformed the toy business by becoming a vehicle for the sale of related merchandise — accessories, clothes etc. She also had a significant impact on social values by conveying characteristics of female independence, diversity etc.

economictimes.com

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Maggie Bean-Ducharme
Curtis Bush, Jr.
Jean Bush
Philip Camp
Cade Fuller
Terry Hall
Jessica Mason
Mary Senatore
Marianne Swiatek

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kathy and Rich Couture
Sandie and Chris Mann

Please help us keep our celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries up-to-date by emailing the MT Breeze with any names that we may include in our monthly listings. (Likewise, if we should delete someone.) Thank you for your help!

CEMETERY LOTS AVAILABLE

Anyone wishing to purchase a cemetery lot/plot, please contact the Cemetery Commission: Joanne Hebert at 862-4586, Patty Little at 862-3830, or Scott Darling at 862-3378. Please do not contact the Town Hall. The price per plot is \$200. Sales are limited to town residents or those born in Montgomery.

Thank you to Gene Washburn and Ed Healy for all their years of service.

Looking for Christmas Gifts? The 2019 Taste Coupon Book – \$25.00 ea

AMVETS Post 96, Russell, MA

Proceeds will be used to make a donation to the Holyoke Soldiers Home Recreation Fund

Included inside are coupons for local & "chain" restaurants in: Agawam, Chicopee, Easthampton, Hadley, Holyoke, Ludlow, Northampton, Southampton, Southwick, Springfield, West Springfield, Westfield & many other towns in Western Mass – including our "own" Montgomery Grill, also some places in Enfield, CT., Somers. CT., Suffield, CT.

Big Y is back. Need to down load app for digital coupon to receive \$10.00 off, see 2nd page in book.

Restaurants Include: Burger King, McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, Friendly's, Sonic, Munich HAUS, Glendale Grill, Red Robin, Domino's Pizza, Uno Chicago Grill, and MANY more.

Also included are coupons for: Amelia Park, Old Sturbridge Village, Springfield Symphony, Springfield Thunderbird's, Eric Carle Museum, Fenway Golf, Volleyball Hall of Fame, Taylor Rental, *Berkshire East*, & *many others*

**If interested, call Dan Flechsig
862-8095**

Irene, formerly of (HAIR Ltd) welcomes everyone to visit her at

ROYAL NAILS & SPA

617 E Main St., Westfield, MA • 413-478-6253 • 415-642-8002

**Irene wishes everyone a
Merry Christmas and
Happy & Healthy New
Year!**

Thanks for your loyalty!

**For more information call:
413-642-8002
413-478-6253**



Pike's Peak Christmas Tree Farm

1689 Russell Road, Montgomery is officially open for the season as of **Saturday, December 2**, continuing every weekend through **Sunday, December 17**. (Please call if you need a special time.) Hours are **9:00 a.m. through dusk** – remember, there are no lights out in the fields!



Many sizes available – small through tall, primarily Fraser Fir and Colorado blue spruce, and the cost is the same for any tree – **\$30.00 for any size** – choose and **cut your own**. We also have fresh, **hand-made ever-green wreaths** on a grapevine base, plus **door swags and kissing balls!**

Be sure to stop in the cabin to warm up with free hot cider or hot chocolate.

Please call us with any questions. 862-4539 or 862-8095.

Santa Claus will pay his annual visit to the Christmas Tree Farm on Sunday, December 16 (from 9 a.m. until dusk) for all the children to see and share their Christmas wishes. Come chat with him if you are able!

The very best of Christmas wishes from all of us at Pike's Peak Christmas Tree Farm!

December tips include burlap, wood ash, and insecticidal soap

December is the month to:

- Cut evergreen branches for holiday decorations.
- Wood ash is a good soil amendment for vegetable and flower gardens, but be careful if your pH is neutral to high.
- Control aphids, spider mites and white flies on houseplants with insecticidal soap.
- Start paperwhite narcissus for February blooms.
- Protect tender plants from severe cold and drying winds with burlap.
- After Christmas, use the branches from your Christmas tree to winter mulch perennial beds.

GardenNews

by Chris Brown



- Tender plants and garden beds should be mulched after the ground freezes.

If you are planning on purchasing a living Christmas tree for the holiday, plan on digging the hole early in December, before the ground freezes. Fill the hole with leaves and cover it with plastic until planting time.

If you purchase or receive poinsettias, they put up with a range of light and temperature conditions. Poinsettias should be watered only when the soil's been allowed to dry slightly. They do not like to be placed in a drafty location.

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU PASTA

Recipe for December 2018 Thank you Jeanne Aras for this recipe.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 3 cups uncooked penne pasta | 2 cups heavy whipping cream |
| 1 8oz. pkg cream cheese – softened & cubed divided | 1 ½ cups shredded Swiss cheese, |
| ½ tsp. onion powder | ½ tsp. garlic salt |
| ¼ tsp. pepper | 3 cups cooked chicken breast |
| ¾ cup crumbled, cooked bacon | ¾ cup cubed fully cooked ham |
| 3 Tbsp. dry bread crumbs | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook pasta al dente...drain. In lg. saucepan, heat cream and cream cheese until smooth. Stir in 1 cup Swiss cheese, onion powder, garlic salt and pepper until blended. In large bowl, combine chicken, bacon, ham and pasta. Add sauce, toss to coat. Transfer to 13 x 9 greases pan. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Top with bread crumbs. Bake uncovered 20 to 25 minutes or until heated through.

DECEMBER RECIPES



Weekly/ Biweekly
Curb-Side Residential Pick-up
Area's Best Prices
Free Wheeled
Trash Cart

P.O. Box 1903
Westfield, MA 01086

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Happy Holidays to all our Hill town neighbors.

Hello I'm Doug Menard,

I'm a long time resident of Montgomery and Owner of Menard Garage Doors a family owned business. I want to express the importance of Garage Doors Service. It's that time of year again, **Cold!** Garage Doors service for the winter is so important.

Being the largest moving part on your home, preventive maintenance is essential for insuring that your Garage Doors stay working during these cold months. The cold can cause broken springs, Garage Doors to bind, cables to snap, and pulleys to cease to work. I recommend servicing your Garage Doors once a year. Minor repairs such as inspecting, adjusting, lubing and replacing worn out parts can insure that your Garage Doors will continue to function through the winter months and for years to come.

Servicing your existing Garage Doors insures that you will be able to operate your Garage Doors even in the most extreme of conditions.

I'm an experienced overhead door professional, certified in all aspects of Garage Doors, installation, service, and repair. I take great pride in my commitment of quality and attention to detail.

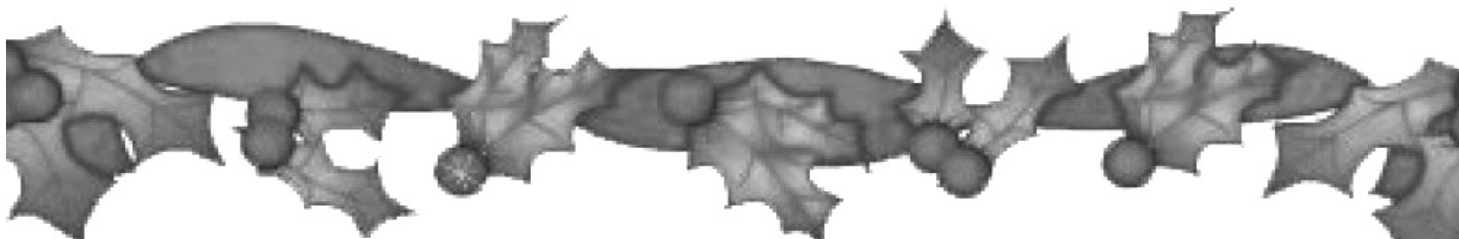
My hope is that you will trust me with all your Garage Door needs from new Garage Door sales, installations, service, and repairs. We offer a wide variety of high quality Haas Garage Doors, with many styles, windows and colors choices also Lift Master Operators to fit all your Garage Door needs.

Why Choose Menard Garage Doors? Every door is installed by a trained professional from beginning to end. That means the job is done right the first time to deliver performance and reliability from the day it is installed. **Quality, installation and service** can add years to the life of your Garage Doors and save you money, inconvenience, and unnecessary aggravation.

My goal is to exceed my customers' expectations of quality, products, and service. I believe that you would want to be treated the way I would want to be treated with fairness, honesty, and respect. Why pay more for less? My customers deserve the very best value.

Call Doug at 413-626-1978
or visit our website at
menardgaragedoors.com
Facebook.com





HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FROM YOUR MONTGOMERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Annual post Christmas dine out concludes our HS program year

The annual Post-Christmas evening of "dining out" concludes the Historical Society's program year on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (The snow date will be Friday, January 11.) This year, we will try out the new restaurant "JP's Steakhouse & Grille" on College Highway, Southampton (formerly Opa-Opa's). Reservations for the

Historical Happenings



dinner may be made by calling Laurie at 862-8095 at any time through the end of December. We will provide additional information about the restaurant in the January edition of the "Breeze."

Why not add your name to the list right now? We hope you'll be able to join us for this fantastic evening filled with fun, food and fellowship!

As the Mountain Breeze goes to print, the Historical Society's display case at Montgomery's library at the Town Center will see a change of exhibit. We thank Muriel Boisseau for the loan of her collection of matchbox holders (and match holders) both historical and newer, for the public to view.

The December display will feature Christmas-themed items for your enjoyment. We hope you'll take a moment to stop in at the library for some good reading material or other media, and check out the exhibit while you're there!

And... if you have anything you might like to display at any time in the case, we'd be delighted to hear from you! Please call Laurie at 862-8095 to offer your items or collection for display!



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

THE BIRDS OF THE '12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS'

"The 12 Days of Christmas" song has become so familiar we rarely think about its weird lyrics. From Swans a swimming and geese a laying to that partridge, the various feathered gifts from the popular song deserve a

closer look.

Carolers routinely rattle off its six avian gifts before moving to even larger quantities of maids, ladies, lords, pipers and drummers. But whether they're literal or symbolic, what kinds of birds are we singing about? Here's the six bird 'stars' of the song:

The Partridge in a pear tree is probably the red-legged partridge, native to continental Europe, introduced as a game bird in the 1770's and is still common in the U.K. They are ground birds and almost never perch in trees - even pear trees.

Next up, 2 European Turtle Doves that were once widespread in the U.K. The birds' common name comes from a

turr-turr sound they make. Our mourning doves here are closely related.

The three French Hens are female chickens probably just from France (the song may be based on an older French song) and not a distinct breed.

Four Calling Birds. This one's trickier. There isn't a species named "calling bird", but there is a clue in an earlier version of a children's book where the line read "four colly birds", using an old English word for black. That suggests that "calling birds" were originally blackbirds - most likely the Eurasian blackbird.

Six Geese-a-laying. The six nesting waterfowl are greylag geese, ancestors of most domestic goose breeds....also the largest and bulkiest of any wild geese native to the U.K. and Europe.

Finally the seven swimming waterfowl are most likely Mute Swans. They were introduced to North America in the 19th century from England. They make less noise than other swans but they're not exactly mute.

(From the Mother Nature Network site)

Happy Holidays to everyone!





Library News

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

**December
2018**

Winter came down to our home one night, Quietly pirouetting in on silvery-toed slippers of snow, And we, we were children once again. ~Bill Morgan, Jr.

NEW At the LibraryPlus many more!

"Crazy Rich Asians" DVD

"Mile 22" DVD

Look alive twenty five by Janet Evanovich

Past Tense by Lee Child

Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

Long Road to Mercy by David Baldacci

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Fantastic beasts the crimes of Grindelwald by J.K. Rowling

"Alpha" DVD

Winter Drop Box

Please do not put any DVD's and Audio books in the Drop Box when the weather drops below 40 degrees, please. Let us know by phone or email and we can renew items for you.

Searching for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers ages 14 to 100 who love books and working with people. The library needs volunteers for various jobs and skill levels. If you are interested stop by the library or email us. We will be having an informal sign up and library skills work shop on Dec 15 at 11 am.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!**

**Trustees Meeting TBA
at 6:30pm**

Museum Passes

Old Sturbridge Village

Springfield Quad

Norman Rockwell

Mystic Aquarium

Deerfield Historical Mu-

USS Constitution

DCR State Park Pass

MassMoCa

Hours

Tues: 10- 5:30

Thurs: 4-8

Sat: 9:30-12:30

Contact

Mail

161 Main Road, Montgomery,
MA 01085

Phone

413-862-3894

email

Montgomerylibrary
@yahoo.com

Website

montgomeryma.gov

wghl.masscat.org

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

commonwealthcatalog.org

COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery
December 2018

Calendar

Fri – Dec 14 Christmas Brunch – noon

Osteoporosis Exercise Class

Town Hall – Friday – 9:30 – 11am

December Birthdays

Jean Bush Richard Kent
Lorna Washburn



Join us on Friday, December 14th for our annual Christmas Brunch at the Town Hall.

Call 862-3257 by Monday, December 10th if you can attend.

The Medicare open enrollment period will close on December 7th.

If you have questions on your plan now is the time to act.

Buliah Mae Thomas, SHINE representative, can be reached at 667-2203 if you would like to make an appointment. She is extremely busy but always manages to find time to help our seniors.

Zodiac Sign – Sagittarius/Capricorn

Flower – Holly/Narcissus

The Annual Senior Citizen Gateway Regional School District Brunch and Concert

The annual Holiday Brunch and Concert will take place at Gateway Regional on **Wednesday, December 5th. Snow Date is December 6th.** Please join us for a special holiday celebration with Gateway student musicians.

**Doors open at 9:15 a.m.
Brunch is from 9:30-10:30
Concert is from 10:30-12**

This is free of charge to Gateway Hilltown residents, aged 55 and older. Parking will be available in front of the Middle/High School complex.

Please call 862-3257 as soon as possible if you plan on attending. They would like a count of people by **November 28th**, but as always, will accommodate late arrivals.



Would You Like To Take Tai Chi?

The COA is planning on sponsoring a Tai Chi class on Thursday mornings starting in January. Date and time to be decided. The classes will be taught by Ellie D'Allesandro from the Westfield YMCA. This ten-week program is especially for seniors. If you would be interested, please call 862-3257 for more information. Classes will be held in the Town Hall and is free of charge.

Birthstone – Turquoise/Zircon/Tanzanite

PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

MEMA Offers Tips to Help Keep Massachusetts Families Safe

A winter storm in New England can range from a moderate snowfall over a few hours to a chilling Nor'easter, bringing blizzard conditions with blinding win-driven snow that lasts several days. People can become stranded in their automobiles or trapped at home, without utilities or other services. The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or the entire region for days, weeks or even months. Storm effects, in New England include large snow accumulation, "extremely cold temperatures, heavy, wet snow or icing on trees and power lines, roof collapses, coastal flooding and beach erosion.

Winter storms are also deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the actual storm. The major causes are automobile or other transportation accidents, exhaustion and heart attacks caused by overexertion, "freezing to death" and asphyxiation from improper heating sources. House fires occur more frequently in the winter due to lack of proper safety precautions when using alternate heating sources, like unattended fires and space heaters.

Over the next couple of months we will share important winter safety information. Areas to be covered will include the proper steps to take to prepare your family and home for the winter season, automobile and driving safety, protecting your pets, and responding to power outages.

WINTER EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable radio or NOAA Weather Radio with extra batteries
- Charged cell phone
- First-aid kit
- Essential prescription medicines
- Non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Water (one gallon per person/per day)
- Extra blankets and sleeping bags
- Fire extinguisher

FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Develop a "Family Emergency Communication Plan" in case family members are separated from one another during a winter storm and have a plan for getting back together.

- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact". After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance than across town. Also, calling outside the area will probably be easier than calling into a disaster area.
- Make sure everyone knows the name, address and telephone number of the contact person.
- Sometimes an emergency could impact your neighborhood or small section of town. Decide on an alternate meeting area for family members.

This newsletter is partially funded by a grant of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Outreach Worker: Ginger Cruickshank 862-4932
Board Members: Anne-Marie Buikus 862-3257, Jane Thielen 862-4482, Sandy Haas 862-3829
Jeanne Aras 862-4497, Jean Bush 862-3645, Geraldine Larrabee 862-3884
E-mail: COA-Montgomeryma@hotmail.com